

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03728 210445Z

17

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SUBJ: SPACE COOPERATION - JAPANESE-FRENCH DISCUSSIONS

REF: A. TOKYO 3526, B. TOKYO A-200

1. SUMMARY: STA EXPLANATION OF JAPANESE-FRENCH AIDE MEMOIRE ON SPACE COOPERATION CONFIRMS THAT FRENCH TOOK INITIATIVE IN OFFERING TO SELL ARIANE STHIRD-STAGE (LIQUID HYDROGEN) TECHNOLOGY, AND THAT JAPANESE DEFERRED RESPONSE TO OFFER PENDING FURTHER STUDY OF JAPANESE BOOSTER ROCKET PROGRAM. HOWEVER, JAPANESE USE OF LIQUID HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY, WHETHER ACQUIRED ABROAD OR DEVELOPED DOMESTICALLY, TO ACHIEVE 500-600 KG SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT LAUNCHING CAPABILITY IN FUTURE IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. YAMANO OF STA HAS PROVIDED SCICOUNS WITH DETAILED AND FRANK EXPLANATION OF FRENCH-JAPANESE SPACE COOPERATION AIDE MEMOIRE DESCRIBED IN REF A AND TRANSMITTED BY REF B. YAMANO'S ACCOUNT, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY KURODA OF NASDA, ENTIRELY CONFIRMS UNDERSTANDING THAT FRENCH TOOK INITIATIVE IN OFFERING TO TRANSFER (I.E. SELL) ARIANE 3RD STAGE TECHNOLOGY TO JAPAN, AND

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03728 210445Z

JAPANESE DEFERRED ANY DEFINITIVE ANSWER PENDING FURTHER STUDY.

YAMANO ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE NO FORMAL DECISION YET MADE (GOJ SPACE PROGRAM IS CHARACTERIZED BY NOTABLE LACK OF FORMAL DECISIONS), THERE IS VIRTUAL CERTAINTY THAT JAPAN WILL SEEK TO UPGRADE IMPROVED N ROCKET TECHNOLOGY THROUGH USE OF LIQUID HYDROGEN SECOND STAGE, WITH OBJECTIVE OF BOOSTING SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT LAUNCH CAPABILITY TO 500-600 KG. YAMANO STRESSED THAT THIS SECOND PHASE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IS SUBSEQUENT TO AND NOT IN PLACE OF FIRST-PHASE OF N ROCKET IMPROVEMENT, FOR WHICH JAPAN HAS REQUESTED US COOPERATION, AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE 300-350 KG CAPABILITY BY 1979-1980.

3. YAMANO STATED THAT JAPANESE WERE SURPRISED THAT ARIANE THIRD STAGE AS CURRENTLY VISUALIZED, PROVIDES ONLY 6 TONS OF THRUST, RATHER THAN 10 TON THRUST REQUIRED FOR IMPROVED N ROCKET APPLICATION. THUS, FRENCH DESIGN NOT DIRECTLY APPLICABLE TO JAPANESE NEEDS, ALTHOUGH TECHNOLOGY MIGHT BE. UPGRADING OF ARIANE THIRD STAGE ENGINE TO HIGHER THRUST REQUIRED FOR N ROCKET APPLICATION IS MEANING BEHIND REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE "JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED VERSIONS", WHICH APPEARS IN PARA 4 OF AIDE MEMOIRE. REFERENCE TO "RELEVANT NEW TECHNOLOGIES" MEANS PRIMARILY REIGNITION CAPABILITY, WHICH CURRENT FRENCH DESIGN LACKS. YAMANO ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT FRENCH OFFER OF CURRENT ARIANE 3RD STAGE TECHNOLOGY COVERS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ONLY, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE JOINT DEVELOPMENT. WHILE YAMANO AVOIDED DRAWING COMPARISON, THIS, OF COURSE, IS IN CONTRAST TO RECENT U.S. OFFER OF HARDWARE SALES, WITH LIMITED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, IN CONNECTION WITH FIRST-PHASE OF N ROCKET IMPROVEMENT.

4. BASIC FRENCH OFFER CONTEMPLATES THAT TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE WOULD BE TRANSFERRED ONLY UPON COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENT BY FRENCH AROUND 1978, THUS PROVIDING JAPANESE WITH LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIMILATE TECHNOLOGY DURING DEVELOPMENTAL PHASE. HOWEVER, JAPANESE APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN LOOSENING FRENCH ATTITUDE ON THIS POINT, AND BELIEVE FRENCH WILL BE PREPARED TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY ON SELECTED COMPONENTS AS THEIR DEVELOPMENT IS COMPLETED, IN ADVANCE OF COMPLETION OF FULL SYSTEM. YAMANO INDICATED THAT THIS COULD BE USEFUL IN CONNECTION WITH BASIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON LIQUID HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS FISCAL YEAR IN STA'S AEROSPACE LABORATORY.

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 03728 210445Z

5. YAMANO CLARIFIED MEANING OF SENTENCE 2 OF PARA 5 OF AIDE MEMOIRE, WHICH APPEARS TO CONSTITUTE JAPANESE AGREEMENT TO PRIVATE COOPERATION IN LICENSING OF FRENCH LIQUID HYDROGEN KNOW HOW. ACCORDING TO YAMANO, THIS SENTENCE REFERS TO COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL AND NOT TO LIQUID HYDROGEN COOPERATION IN PARTICULAR. YAMANO STRESSED THAT DESPITE INFORMAL DECISION TO USE LIQUID HYDROGEN, THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION TO ACQUIRE

FRENCH TECHNOLOGY FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) LACK OF DETAILED DEFINITION OF JAPANESE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPROVED N ROCKET.

B) JAPANESE UNCERTAINTY AS TO REAL STATUS OF FRENCH TECHNOLOGY (KURODA SAID FRENCH EXPLANATION OF PRESENT STATUS DIFFERED LITTLE FROM WHAT GOJ WAS AWARE OF ONE YEAR AGO. WHILE FRENCH CONCEPTUAL DESIGN APPEARS TO BE VERY WELL DONE, KURODA INDICATED, JAPANESE HAVE REAL DOUBTS AS TO PROGRESS BEING MADE AT EXPERIMENTAL LEVEL).

C) UNCERTAINTY AS TO U.S. POSITION IN PROVIDING LIQUID HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY. YAMANO MADE IT CLEAR THAT JAPAN HOPED U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO, AND THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE RAISED BY SPACE COMMISSIONER AMISHIMA DURING FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON VISIT.

6. YAMANO ALSO EXPLAINED LANGUAGE OF PARA 6 OF AIDE MEMOIRE, WHICH CALLS ON PARTIES TO EXPLORE USE OF JAPANESE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGIES IN FRENCH PROGRAMS. YAMANO NOTED THAT REFERENCE WAS TO "EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED BY JAPAN", RATHER THAN IN JAPAN, IN RECOGNITION OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THIRD PARTY TRANSFER IN US-JAPAN 1969 SPACE AGREEMENT. FOR SAME REASON, AIDE MEMOIRE SPEAKS ONLY OF "EXPLORING" SUCH USE.

7. JAPANESE APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT FRENCH TRANSFER OF BOOSTER TECHNOLOGY WOULD NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY RESTRICTIONS ON USE INCLUDED IN U.S.-JAPAN SPACE AGREEMENT. THIS IS MEANING ATTRIBUTED TO PORTION OF PARA 4 OF AIDE MEMOIRE IN WHICH FRENCH INDICATE TECHNOLOGY COULD BE TRANSFERRED AT PRIVATE LEVEL WITHOUT GOVT TO GOVT AGREEMENT. SCICOUNS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT FRENCH TRANSFER WOULD BE FREE OF RESTRICTIONS, IF AND WHEN DETAILED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 TOKYO 03728 210445Z

NEGOTIATIONS EVER TAKE PLACE.

8. OTHER AREAS ON COOPERATION REFERRED TO IN SENTENCES (1), (2), AND (3) OF PARA 3 APPARENTLY RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION IN DISCUSSIONS, AND YAMANO SEEMED TO ATTRIBUTE LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO THEM.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE PAST GOJ COYNESS IN EXPLAINING INTEREST IN LIQUID HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY AND POSSIBLE FRENCH TIE-IN IS REGRETTABLE, EMBASSY IS SATISFIED THAT EXPLANATION OF RESULTS OF FRENCH TALKS PROVIDED BY YAMANO IS ACCURATE AND ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE. WHILE ULTIMATE ATTRACTIVENESS OF FRENCH OFFER WILL DEPEND ON MANY YET UNDEFINED FACTORS, INCLUDING PRICE FRENCH PUT ON KNOW-HOW TRANSFER, WE BELIEVE APPARENT FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY, RATHER THAN HARDWARE, AND TO AVOID

RESTRICTIONS, WILL BE VERY ATTRACTIVE TO GOJ. SCICOUNS
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON VISIT OF
COMMISSIONER AMISHIMA, JAPANESE WOULD BE WILLING TO
ENGAGE IN FRANK AND DETAILED DISCUSSION OF FUTURE SPACE
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.
SHOESMITH

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